

1, 2000. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 17-24, 26-27 and 30-50 are currently pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 1, 7, 17, 21, 33-35 and 41 have been amended and, for the reasons set forth in detail below, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Paragraph 2 of the Official Action rejects claims 7, 9, 10, 17-20, 27, 30 and 45-46 as indefinite. In response, claims 7, 9 and 17 have been amended to correct the informalities noted in the Official Action and favorable reconsideration is requested in view thereof.

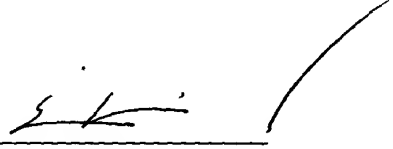
Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6, 21-22, 26, 31 and 40 as obvious based on Yamazaki '858 and Sawatsubashi '301. In response, independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended to recite that the semiconductor chip is at least one of a memory, an input port, a correction memory and a CPU. In that the remaining claims reciting this feature were not substantively rejected based on the prior art, this feature is understood to be allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is requested in view of the amendments herewith.

Paragraph 5 of the Official Action rejects claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as a duplicate of claim 41. In response, claim 41 has been amended to correct the claim dependency and favorable reconsideration is requested in view thereof.

Paragraph 7 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-7, 9-10, 17-24, 26-27 and 30-50 under the doctrine of double patenting in view of claims 1, 3 12-13 and 17 of U.S. Patent 5,889,291. In response, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be held in abeyance until such time as allowable subject matter is indicated, at which time a complete response to any remaining double patenting rejection will be made.

In view of the above, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem any further action by the applicants would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric J. Robinson', is written over a horizontal line. A long, sweeping flourish extends from the end of the signature towards the upper right.

Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Sixbey, Friedman, Leedom & Ferguson, P.C.
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110